



# Courthouse Green Network News

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## The Budget special.

Every year the government explains how it will spend the country's money for the next 12 months.

The Budget is worked out by the man in charge of Britain's money - the Chancellor of the Exchequer - with help from his office, the Treasury.

The current Chancellor of the Exchequer is George Osborne.

### **Why do we have a Budget?**

Just like you decide how to spend your pocket money, the government has to decide how to spend money on services like schools, hospitals, the police and housing.

The government needs to work out how much money it has in the bank, so it can work out how to spend it on the country.

### **Does it affect me?**

You might not think it but the Budget does affect your life.

The Chancellor may decide to spend more or less money on schools and he may also choose to spend money on youth schemes in your area.

Adults may find they have more or less money to spend - which could mean more or less pocket money for you!



### **Questions:**

- **Have you heard of 'The budget' before?**
- **Do you know of any changes made to this years budget?**
- **Have your mum or dad, parent or carers mentioned the budget to you?**
- **Have you seen this man (and his red briefcase) on the TV recently?**
- **Do you think the budget affects you?**



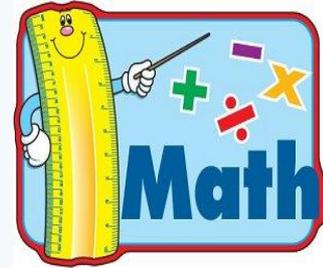
# CGNN Courthouse Green Network News

## The Budget special.



### What are the changes that might affect you?

There will be a new sugar tax. This will mean that soft drinks like Coke or Fanta will be more expensive. The extra money will be collected by the government and spent on sports equipment for primary school. They expect to raise £520m a year: that is a lot of footballs!



George Osbourne also announced that he wants head teachers of English secondary schools to be able to decide for themselves what time the school day will end. He's offering schools a pot of money to help pay for additional classes or extra-curricular activities like art and sport.



The Chancellor also announced a review to look into whether maths should be taught to all school children in England up until the age of 18.

### Questions:

- Do you think the sugar tax is a good idea? Do you think your mum and dad will think it is a good idea? Do you think your dentist will think it is a good idea?
- Do you think the school day should be extended? What would be the benefits?
- Why do you think George wants maths to be taught until you are 18? How would it help you in life?



# CGNN

## Courthouse Green Network News Happening in the UK

Last June, at Alton Towers, there was a serious crash in which a young person sustained serious injury. The ride also seriously injured five others and it was closed while investigators worked out what happened.

Alton Towers has now opened a similar ride and this has raised contention (disagreement). Alton Towers says better safety measures have now been put in place so the ride should be safe to use.

But some, including someone who was on the ride when the accident happened, think it's too soon to reopen it.



**Injuries on fairground and theme park rides are extremely rare so you should not be put off enjoying them.**

### Questions:

- **Do you think it is too soon to re-open the ride?**
- **How do you think the people who were injured on the ride feel about it being re-opened?**
- **Would you go on the new ride?**
- **Do you think you should worry about going on all rides? Why not?**



Scenes from the crash last June. Firefighters had to rescue people from the ride.